

2024 Active Transportation Annual Report

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Report Summary

This report and presentation provides a recommendation regarding amendments to the Traffic and Parking By-law 2010-1 to enable the designation of newly implemented cycling infrastructure and highlights 2024 initiatives, events, education campaigns and infrastructure achievements that support walking and cycling in Greater Sudbury.

Resolution

THAT the City of Greater Sudbury designates Walford Road from Paris Street to Regent Street, Kingsway from Barry Downe Road to Falconbridge Road and Larch Street from Elgin Street to Lisgar Street as cycling facilities;

AND THAT the City of Greater Sudbury designates the westside of Old Highway 69 (Municipal Road 80) from Main Street to 250m South of MacKenzie Street as a multi-use path;

AND THAT the City of Greater Sudbury prepares a by-law to amend Traffic and Parking By-Law 2010-1 to implement the recommended changes, as outlined in the report entitled “2024 Active Transportation Annual Report”, from the General Manager of Growth and Infrastructure, presented at the Operations Committee meeting on December 16, 2024.

Relationship to the Strategic Plan, Health Impact Assessment and Climate Action Plans

Implementing recommendations of the Transportation Master Plan (TMP) by building new cycling infrastructure and developing new policies, programs and initiatives, supports the achievement of strategic objectives under both the Climate Change and Create a Healthier Community strategic initiatives. Items outlined within this report contribute to the goals 7: Enhance transit service to increase transit mode share to 25% by 2050 and 8: Achieve 35% active mobility transportation mode share by 2050 to “Complete and implement Community Energy and Emissions Plan that will provide guidance to reduce greenhouse gas emissions”; “Deliver City-led goals from Population Health Call to Action 2018-2028” (Healthy Streets); and “...attain ‘Silver Bicycle Friend Community’ status from Share the Road Cycling Coalition”.

Financial Implications

Activities described in this report have been carried out within approved budgets.

Purpose:

This report updates Council on the 2024 policies, initiatives, events, education campaigns and infrastructure achievements that support walking and cycling in Greater Sudbury and outlines recommended amendments to the Traffic and Parking Bylaw 2010-1 to enable the designation of newly implemented cycling infrastructure.

Background

The City of Greater Sudbury is actively promoting and investing in active transportation, such as walking and cycling, recognizing its significance in creating a healthier and more sustainable community. Initiatives include the development of pedestrian and cycling infrastructure, associated policies and programs to support active transportation, and educational campaigns. The municipality acknowledges the positive impact on public health, reduced carbon footprint, improved air quality, and the creation of a more accessible urban environment. These efforts align with the City's Climate Change and Create a Healthier Community strategic initiatives, showcasing a commitment to the well-being of residents and the environment.

Strategic Strides: Progress Update

Create a Healthier and More Vibrant Community

Within the Create a Healthier and More Vibrant Community strategic objective, there are two initiatives that are supported by the implementation of active transportation infrastructure and programs; Advance Population Health Agenda and Invest in Infrastructure to Support Community Recreation with Focus on Quality of Living.

One of the priorities of Population Health is Healthy Streets which states "Healthy streets improve the citizen experience through pathways, traffic control, pedestrian friendliness and improve traffic flow." One of the calls to action for this priority is to make our streets more cyclist and pedestrian friendly. One of the primary ways to answer this call to action is through the implementation of new cyclist and pedestrian infrastructure.

In 2017, the Transportation Master Plan (TMP) for Greater Sudbury underwent a sustainability-focused update, introducing a cycling network and recommending policies for pedestrian and cycling infrastructure, programs, and initiatives. Over the ensuing seven years, significant strides have been taken to implement TMP recommendations, with ongoing efforts by staff to develop additional policies and programs tailored to the transportation preferences of Greater Sudbury residents who opt for walking or cycling. The Transportation Master Plan, adopted in 2017, delineated a cycling infrastructure network spanning 268 km. By 2019, the city had already achieved 21 lane km of cycling infrastructure across the community. Subsequently, an additional 127.5 km of cycling infrastructure has been installed, highlighting the city's commitment to expanding its cycling network.

Since 2019, the City has also made significant investments in pedestrian infrastructure. A total of 6.25 km of sidewalk has been installed along with 46 pedestrian crossovers.

An additional call to action for the Healthy Streets priority was to have safer, cleaner, better maintained sidewalks. At the September 18, 2023 Operations Committee meeting, a pilot project was approved to provide a continuous service model for the winter maintenance of sidewalks. This pilot project provides three additional seasonal employees to complete maintenance of sidewalks on a rotational basis during business

days. It is anticipated that this pilot project will improve the condition of sidewalks between storms.

The Invest in Infrastructure to Support Community Recreation with Focus on Quality of Living initiative has a goal to attain a “Silver Bicycle Friendly Community” status from the Share the Road Cycling Coalition. During the fall of 2017, City staff collaborated with representatives from Public Health Sudbury and Districts, Rainbow Routes Association, the Sudbury Cyclists Union, and the Coalition for a Liveable Sudbury to jointly apply for a Bicycle Friendly Community Award from the Share the Road Cycling Coalition. The City of Greater Sudbury was excited to achieve the Bronze Level award on its initial application in January 2018. To maintain this recognition, municipalities are required to submit a new application every four (4) years to either sustain or elevate their award standing. The collaborative working group from 2017 reconvened and reapplied in the fall of 2021.

As cycling standards continue to evolve, so do the benchmarks for Bronze, Silver, and Gold statuses. In early 2022, Greater Sudbury, alongside eight other communities in Ontario, successfully renewed its status as a Bronze-level Bicycle Friendly Community. Share the Road Cycling Coalition provided a feedback report, acknowledging Greater Sudbury’s ongoing progress in creating a more bikeable community and offering recommendations to progress to the next award level. Greater Sudbury remains committed to advancing in the four categories—Engineering, Education, Encouragement, and Evaluation & Planning—with the aim of attaining a Silver-level designation in the next evaluation scheduled for 2025.

Climate Change

The development of active transportation infrastructure and programs strongly support the Climate Change strategic objective by advancing Goal 8 of the Community Energy and Emissions Plan (CEEP) by 2050, which targets a 35% active mobility transportation mode share.

Determining the transportation mode share of a community is typically done through a census or a transportation survey which is usually done in conjunction with master planning.

While the City does not have access to current mode split data, it does have access to third party data from a smartphone application which users use to track their trips. The data shows that cycling trips across the community have increased from 22,540 trips in 2020 to 23,827 trips in 2023, an approximate three per cent increase over that time. Similarly, pedestrian trips have increased from 46,667 in 2020 to 64,738 trips in 2023, an approximate 39 per cent increase. It is important to note that this data is largely dependent on the number of active users of the application.

Policies and Plans:

Transportation Demand Management Plan Community Grant Program

In May 2018, the Operations Committee approved the final Transportation Demand Management (TDM) Plan for Greater Sudbury, which was endorsed by Council in June 2018. The plan’s success depends on collaboration with community partners to lead and participate in TDM programs and events. In 2019, the City launched the TDM Community Grant Program to support non-profit organizations with funding for community-based initiatives that align with and advance the TDM Plan’s goals.

In 2024, the City of Greater Sudbury’s TDM Community Grant Program supported 10 community-driven initiatives promoting sustainable transportation, with a total funding allocation of \$10,000. Funded projects included efforts to encourage transit use, install bike racks, provide bike locks, and promote active transportation through events and educational campaigns. Key recipients included the Sudbury Performance Group, Lockerby Composite School, MacLeod Public School, and Rainbow District School Board. The program successfully engaged the community in making walking, cycling, and public transit more accessible, supporting the city’s goals to reduce car dependency and promote healthier, more sustainable lifestyles. Since the program’s initiation in June 2019, the City has conducted five intakes, approving 35 applications

and disbursing \$35,000 in funding to support various TDM-related programs, initiatives, and services.

As recommended in the Transportation Demand Management (TDM) Plan, an internal TDM Working Group was formed this year to enhance collaboration across departments. The group includes representatives from Planning, Traffic, Active Transportation, Transit, Tourism, and Communications. The working group's primary responsibilities include identifying transportation challenges, developing strategies to promote sustainable mobility, and implementing innovative TDM solutions. By fostering collaboration and leveraging expertise across departments, the group aims to advance the City's TDM goals and support the broader objectives of sustainable transportation within Greater Sudbury.

Complete Streets

The Draft Complete Streets Design Guidelines (CSDG) is in final production and will be presented to various Council committees, including City Council, in Q1 of 2025. One of the key recommendations from the Transportation Master Plan (TMP) was to develop a Complete Streets Policy to guide the City's approach to infrastructure that accommodates multiple transportation modes. A complete street considers the needs of all users—pedestrians, cyclists, transit riders, and drivers, regardless of age or ability. The Complete Streets Policy for Greater Sudbury was approved by Council on July 10, 2018.

The CSDG will help transform the community by guiding the design of streets that encourage walking, cycling, and transit. These guidelines will inform the design of new streets and the retrofit of streets undergoing full reconstruction, in alignment with the City's Complete Streets Policy. Minor rehabilitation projects, repaving, or routine maintenance will generally not be subject to the guidelines, though improvements may still be considered.

Initiatives and Events:

Winter Commute Month

In 2024, the City of Greater Sudbury proudly participated in Winter Commute Month for the first time, encouraging residents to embrace sustainable transportation options during the winter season. From February 1 to 29, 2024, residents were invited to walk, cycle, carpool, take transit, or work from home as part of the initiative. Participants were encouraged to log their sustainable trips through the Smart Commute platform, earning ballots for a chance to win a \$100 e-gift card. In total, 82 trips were logged throughout the month, highlighting a positive response to the promotion of sustainable commuting. Additionally, booths were set up at two winter carnivals—the Walden Winter Carnival and the Onaping Falls Winter Carnival—as well as at the Sudbury Market, where residents had the opportunity to engage with the Smart Commute program, learn more about the benefits of sustainable transportation, and receive swag.

This year also marked the first year of Winter Walk Week (WWW), which took place from February 5 to 9, 2024. This initiative encouraged students to walk to school, either from home or a nearby drop-off point, promoting an active and healthy lifestyle during the winter months. Six schools signed up for this exciting campaign, creating a fun and engaging experience for students, teachers, and parents alike. Participating schools received exclusive Prize Packs, which included prizes, resource materials, and interactive items like tracking posters, stickers, and tattoos. This initiative added a fun, community-driven aspect to the winter commute efforts.

Science North Youth Summit

For the second year in a row, the City of Greater Sudbury attended The Youth Climate Action Summit, hosted by Science North on March 26 and 27. This two-day event aimed to educate, inspire, and mobilize high school students to take action against climate change. The first day featured talks and workshops, while the second day focused on empowering students to implement community-based action projects, including developing Climate Action Plans for their schools or communities. Indigenous perspectives on climate change were emphasized, and the summit highlighted the importance of fostering youth leadership.

During the summit, the City presented and facilitated an interactive workshop. The workshop focused on transportation options and low or zero carbon travel methods, allowing students to explore sustainable travel alternatives and learn about the environmental impact of traditional transportation. Breakout sessions provided an opportunity for in-depth exploration of various low and zero carbon transportation options.

Bike Month 2024

Ontario Bike Month, celebrated every June, offers a chance to swap car rides for bike adventures, learn new skills, and enjoy cycling. In Greater Sudbury, a variety of events were held throughout the month to promote cycling and active transportation, encouraging community participation, and supporting sustainable mobility.

Bike to School Week

The Bike to School Week Challenge held from May 27 to May 31, 2024, was a great success, with four schools participating in this exciting initiative to promote active school travel. The challenge encouraged students to bike, walk, or wheel to school, with schools tracking the number of active travel trips made throughout the week. The schools that participated included Immaculate Conception Catholic School, Bishop Alexander Carter CSS, C.R. Judd Public School, and Helene-Gravel Public School, who collectively logged over 400 active travel trips. The highlight of the week was the introduction of the Active School Trophy, awarded to the school with the most active school travel trips. This year, the trophy was proudly presented to Helene-Gravel Public School for their outstanding participation. The event not only promoted physical activity and sustainable transportation but also fostered a sense of healthy competition among schools, setting the stage for future challenges.



Figure 1 Student and Principal from Helene-Gravel Public School accepting the Active Travel Trophy

Bike to Work Day

Bike to Work Day on June 5, 2024, aimed to promote sustainable commuting and encourage residents to consider biking as an eco-friendly alternative to driving. Cyclists were invited to join a group ride at one of five starting points across the city, all heading towards Tom Davies Square for a celebratory event. From 7 to 9 a.m., participants gathered at the Tom Davis Square courtyard, where they enjoyed a grab-and-go breakfast, received bike maintenance tips from local bike shops, and met others who bike to work. Due to bad weather, attendance was lower than expected, but the event still provided an opportunity to engage with the community, promote cycling, and showcase its benefits as a sustainable mode of transportation.



Figure 2 Bike to Work Day, Commuter Café

Mayor's Bike Ride

The Annual Mayor's Bike Ride was originally planned for June 5, 2024, with Mayor Lefebvre and Bike Sudbury leading the community on a ride to explore local cycling infrastructure, routes, and trails. Although unfavourable weather led to the event being postponed to June 13 and then to June 19, the enthusiasm for the ride remained high.

Each rescheduled date sparked substantial community engagement on social media, with posts promoting the event collectively reaching over 55,000 views and approximately 150 citizens expressing their interest or intent to attend. While the weather may have prevented the in-person ride, the impressive online response highlighted a strong community passion for cycling and active transportation in Greater Sudbury.

Sudbury Market

The Smart Commute Team hosted booths at the Sudbury Market on June 27 and June 29, 2024, providing an opportunity for residents to learn about local trails, bike safety, and sustainable travel options. Participants were able to engage with the team, ask questions, and receive helpful information about cycling and sustainable transportation in Greater Sudbury. Swag was handed out to encourage further participation and awareness. These booths were an excellent way to connect with the community and promote the benefits of active transportation.

Bike Exchange and Bike Rodeo

Since 2012, the Kids Bike Exchange program has been active in Greater Sudbury. Community members generously donate bicycles for the exchange, and dedicated volunteers perform safety inspections, conduct minor repairs, and outfit them with new bells and reflective tape. The refurbished bikes are then distributed to children and youth aged 18 and under.

On July 21, Sessions Ride Company, in collaboration with the City of Greater Sudbury, hosted the Annual Kids Bike Exchange at Tom Davies Square Courtyard. This year's event saw the exciting addition of the Kids Bike Rodeo. The Bike Exchange allowed participants to trade in their old bikes for ones that fit, were safe, and ready to ride, with a total of 75 bikes given out. In addition to the bike exchange, the Bike Rodeo, organized by the City of Greater Sudbury, Bike Sudbury, and Public Health Sudbury and Districts, attracted 30 kids who participated in an obstacle course to practice bike skills, learn safety tips, and spin the wheel for exciting prizes. This event successfully promoted sustainability, cycling safety, and active transportation, while fostering community involvement.



**Figure 3 Kids Bike exchange and Bike Rodeo July 21,
Tom Davis Square Courtyard with GSPS Mascot**

First Time Walkers Program

In partnership with the Sudbury Student Services Consortium, the City of Greater Sudbury introduced the First Time Walkers Program in 2024, marking the first of its kind in the city. Designed to help children in Grades 1 to 3 walk to school safely and confidently, the program offered a free, one-hour in-person session that covered key topics such as understanding traffic signals, safe crossing procedures, and included a guided walk. A total of 14 children participated in this inaugural session, with caregivers joining the children to actively participate in the learning experience. The program received positive feedback for its emphasis on safety, community engagement, and providing a valuable educational opportunity for both children and caregivers.

Canadian Youth Road Safety Week

The Sudbury Road Safety Committee (SRSC) is a collaborative group dedicated to promoting road safety through education and community engagement. It includes representatives from organizations such as Public Health Sudbury and Districts, Greater Sudbury Police Services, the Ontario Provincial Police, Ministry

of Transportation of Ontario, and the City of Greater Sudbury's Traffic and Transportation and Paramedic Services. The committee plays a key role in organizing various initiatives aimed at promoting road safety, raising awareness, and encouraging safer road behaviors within the community.

The Sudbury Road Safety Committee hosted Canadian Youth Road Safety Week by organizing three interactive stations focused on road safety at St. Benedict Catholic Secondary School on October 23, 2024. The event addressed important topics such as pedestrian safety, impaired driving, and distracted driving. The activity stations included:

- Active Transportation Amazing Race: A fun and educational activity that taught students about cycling fundamentals, road rules, and signs.
- Distracted Driving Mario Kart Activity: A simulated activity where students experienced distracted driving in a safe, controlled environment, followed by a speech from a Greater Sudbury Police Service (GSPS) officer.
- Impaired Driving Obstacle Course: Students navigated an obstacle course while wearing impaired-driving goggles, followed by a speech from a GSPS officer on the dangers of impaired driving.

A total of 75 students and 5 teachers participated in the activities, which were designed to educate and engage them on road safety issues. The initiative aimed to promote interest in active transportation, increase knowledge on driving competency, and encourage teachers to continue discussions on these topics.

Additionally, the event included the distribution of Positive Tickets to reinforce safe and responsible behavior. The goal was also to strengthen relationships between agencies involved in road safety education and promote collaboration in building a safer community for everyone.



Figure 4 Students at St. Benedict Catholic Secondary School during Canadian Youth Road Safety Week

Smart Commute Program



The Smart Commute Program, launched in June 2023, aims to promote shared travel, reduce road traffic, and enhance commuting options by encouraging multimodal travel in Greater Sudbury. In partnership with the Smart Commute Association (SCA) and reThink Green, the program supports sustainable transportation across the community.

The Smart Commute Membership Program was introduced at the beginning of 2024 to assist businesses and organizations in adopting sustainable commuting practices and encouraging their employees to use more sustainable travel options. To date, 8 organizations have joined, with more in the process of signing up.

reThink Green has played a key role in promoting the Smart Commute Program, hosting booths at 11 events across festivals, markets, and post-secondary institutions, engaging nearly 900 people. In 2024, they created 129 social media posts, reaching over 10,000 people and increasing followers by 56%. To date, the program has 134 registered users and 585 trips logged, contributing to its goals of reducing road traffic, increasing vehicle occupancy, and promoting a sustainable transportation network. These numbers are in line with the growth seen in similar programs, especially considering the setbacks caused by COVID-19, with many programs just beginning to recover to pre-pandemic participation levels.

Education Campaigns:

Safety First

During the month of June, the City released a series of social media content reminding citizens about safe cycling and the responsibilities of both cyclists and motorists when sharing the road with all users.

A new education message was released every week during the month including topics like watching for children cycling and walking, the rules of bike lanes, and the proper placement of Garbage, Green Carts and Blue Boxes containers during waste pick up days.



Infrastructure Improvements:

Nelson Street Active Transportation Bridge

The new Nelson Street Active Transportation Bridge was officially opened with a ribbon-cutting ceremony on November 15. This new bridge replaces the old pedestrian bridge, which had become outdated and required extensive repairs. The bridge was widened to 3 meters, offering ample space for both pedestrians and cyclists, ensuring safety and accessibility. This upgrade also provides a crucial link to the popular Ramsey Lake cycling route.

The bridge's completion marks a significant step in improving infrastructure for active transportation in Greater Sudbury. The ribbon-cutting ceremony was attended by approximately 70 people, including dignitaries and community members, who celebrated this key addition to the city's growing network of sustainable transportation options.

Summary of Cycling Facilities Installed in 2024

In 2024, the City of Greater Sudbury installed 9.5 lane kilometers of cycling infrastructure.

Road	From	To	Facility Type	Segment Length
Walford Road	Paris Street	Regent Street	Cycle Track	1.36 km
Larch Street	Elgin Street	Lisgar Street	Bike Lane	0.25 km
Kingsway	Barry Downe Road	Falconbridge Road	Cycle Track	0.95 km
Old Hwy 69 (Municipal Road 80)	Main Street	250m South of MacKenzie Street on the westside	Multi-Use Path	0.35 km
Nelson Street Active Transportation Bridge	Edmund Street	Elgin Street	Multi-Use Path	0.1 km
Madison Ave	Madison Avenue (trail on West end)	Falconbridge Road (through Old Falconbridge)	Edgeline	2.6 km
Gary Street	Lasalle Boulevard	End of Gary Street	Edgeline	2.4 km
Paquette Street	Lasalle Boulevard	Lamothe Street	Edgeline	1.5 km
TOTAL:				9.5 km

A description of the different types of cycling facilities that are used in Greater Sudbury can be found at www.greatersudbury.ca/cycling.

Summary of New Sidewalk Installed in 2024

In 2024, the City of Greater Sudbury installed approximately 0.90 kilometers of new sidewalk throughout the community.

Road	From	To	Facility Type	Segment Length
Crescent Avenue	Vaughan Avenue	Ormsby Avenue	Sidewalk	0.15 km
Ormsby Avenue	Crescent Avenue	Dennie Street	Sidewalk	0.10 km
Anderson Drive	MR 25	Meagan Duhamel Drive	Sidewalk	0.30 km
Old Hwy 69 (Municipal Road 80)	Main Street	250m South of MacKenzie Street on the westside	Multi-Use Path	0.35 km
TOTAL:				0.90 km

Amendments to Traffic and Parking By-law 2010-1:

When new cycling-only facilities, traffic control systems, or pedestrian crossovers (PXOs) are installed as part of road capital projects or operational improvements in Greater Sudbury, an amending by-law to the Traffic and Parking By-law 2010-1 is required to officially designate these facilities and devices. The by-law will be amended to reflect the new cycling infrastructure identified in the report. This ensures that the city's traffic and parking regulations are updated to reflect the changes, maintaining clarity and compliance with municipal laws.